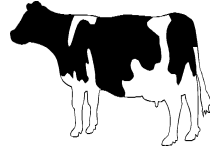


# DAIRY



# NEWS

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## 1999 Legislative Summary

The 1999 Legislature passed Department sponsored legislation to update the dairy laws and consolidate or eliminate outdated chapters. Some of the chapters repealed were:

- (1) Filled Dairy Products, chapter 15.38 RCW
- (2) Oleomargarine, chapter 15.40 RCW
- (3) Yellow Margarine, chapter 15.41 RCW
- (4) Washington Meat Inspection, chapter 16.49A RCW
- (5) Washington Wholesome Poultry Products, chapter 16.74 RCW
- (6) Inspection of Meat Storage or Sale Locations, chapter 16.48 RCW
- (7) Weights and Measures--Bread and Hops, chapter 19.92 RCW.

All of the repealed sections were either superseded by federal law or no longer needed.

The Department also sponsored legislation which:

- (1) Extends until June 30, 2005 the assessment fee on milk received at processing plants which funds a portion of the dairy inspection program.
- (2) Adds two new members to the Dairy Inspection Program Advisory Committee. These members will represent equipment installers and bulk milk haulers and will join the current council which has producer and processor representatives.
- (3) Allows the Department to issue Sanitary Certificates on dairy products. These certificates are required by some countries to allow the sale of dairy products internationally.
- (4) Expands options for enforcement of dairy laws by allowing the use of civil penalties.

## Retirements

Three long time employees have recently retired: Alan Barr, Alden Fitch and Don Penders. Alan Barr who retired effective June 1st, had been with the department since 1975 and is a graduate of WSU. Alden Fitch retired on October 29th after 38 years of dedicated service with the Food Safety Program. Don Penders retired effective December 31<sup>st</sup>. Don has also been with the department since 1975, most recently serving as state milk rating officer in Olympia. Their expertise in milk production and processing will be missed, but we wish them well on their retirement.

## Mature Vaccination with *Brucella Abortus* Vaccine Strain RB-51

*Prepared by Dr. Kathy Connell, Assistant State Veterinarian*

On March 1, 1997, *Brucella Abortus* Strain RB-51 became the official Brucellosis vaccine in Washington State. The state achieved and has maintained its free status since 1987.

Additional changes to the Brucellosis rules were adopted on April 15, 1999. Since those amended rules became effective, **all** veterinarians licensed and accredited in Washington State have been able to vaccinate **all** female cattle over 12 months of age. This includes pregnant and non-pregnant beef and dairy cattle.

Female cattle over 12 months of age are vaccinated with ¼ cc of the calfhood concentration of RB-51. They are tagged with orange and silver identification ear tags. Both tags are applied in the right ear. The tattoo is "M", followed by the V shield and then the last digit of the year. For example, this tattoo for 2000 is MV0.

The veterinarian will draw blood for a Brucellosis test at the time of vaccination. This is necessary to ensure that the non-vaccinated animal is Brucellosis negative. The animal can be vaccinated before the lab tests the blood sample. Animal Health veterinarians will investigate any subsequent positives.

Cattle destined for slaughter cannot be vaccinated as there is a 3-week withdrawal time. There is no milk withdrawal period.

Other states will **not** accept Washington's mature vaccinates as official vaccinates. These animals **cannot** be shipped interstate unless expressly permitted by the State Veterinarian in the receiving state.

To test mature vaccination in this state, a pilot project ran from June 1, 1998, through April 15, 1999. During these 10 months, 42 veterinary businesses participated and 1,203 cattle were mature vaccinated. Veterinarians elected to sign up as participants or to continue vaccination under the old rules, which restricted vaccination to female cattle 4-12 months old. For the pilot project, only non-pregnant cattle were vaccinated.

For more information, contact the State Veterinarian's Office, (360) 902-1878.

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## **1999 National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers**

The 1999 National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers (NCIMS) held its biennial conference in Atlanta, Georgia the first week of May. The NCIMS is a voluntary organization that developed and updates the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). The conference meets every two years to discuss changes needed to the PMO.

The 1999 NCIMS delegates approved the Dairy Plant HACCP Pilot Program. The NCIMS Dairy HACCP Committee has selected the WSDA dairy program and Safeway Stores' milk plant in Bellevue to participate in the pilot program. A total of six milk processing plants were selected nationwide to ensure a diversity of regulatory programs, processing facilities with varying products, and representation from each region in the country.

Other items of interest passed at the 1999 conference include:

- (1) To allow the use of civil penalties for enforcement.
- (2) To require hot water for hand wash sinks on dairy farms.
- (3) To standardize inspection requirements for farm milk pick-up tankers.

FDA has approved these changes and all items will be incorporated into the next revision of the PMO.

## **Round 2 of Dairy Options Pilot Program**

Proposed rules to implement a 2nd round of the Dairy Options Pilot Program (DOPP) are working their way through the federal rule making process in Washington D.C. The DOPP is an innovative cost-share program that helps producers respond to volatile dairy prices. Round 2 extends DOPP to dairy producers in Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties. Once approved, the USDA Risk Management Agency will mail invitations to eligible producers for the upcoming DOPP training workshops. The training workshops (dates and locations are still in the planning phase) will provide an overview of how dairy options work, rules of the DOPP, and helpful tips for selecting a broker.

## **New WSDA Food Safety Officers**

WSDA welcomes Michael Hill and Les Boian to the Food Safety Program. Michael Hill joined the department in December 1998 and brought with him food safety and environmental health work experience gained from his 20 years of service as a registered Sanitarian in the US Navy. Les Boian joined the department on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Les was previously employed by the dairy division of the state of Idaho where he served as a supervisor and milk rating officer. Les has many years experience in the dairy industry and should prove to be a valuable addition for the department.

### **WSDA Food Safety Program Launches Website**

After quite a bit of planning and preparation, the WSDA Food Safety Program launched an informational website in September. Doug Brown, Dairy Program Office Assistant, designed a helpful website for visitors to access forms, applications, rules and laws as well as links to other relative websites.

To reach the Food Safety Program, go to website: <http://www.wa.gov/agr/fsah/food/FS-HP.htm>

When one reaches this web page, click on the "dairy program" button on the left-hand side of the web page to access dairy program information.

## **New Dairy Inspection & Enforcement Procedures**

Food Safety Officers will begin scoring inspections of dairy farms and dairy plants in January 2000. Each inspection item has an assigned debit value or is designated as a critical item. Inspections scoring 90 points or above without any critical violations cited are considered in substantial compliance. If the inspection score is below 90 points or critical violations are cited, the department may issue a Notice of Correction (warning letter).

Rather than taking enforcement action on repeat violations cited on two consecutive inspections, the new approach will review a 3-year historical period. If the inspection score is below 90 points or critical violations are cited on 2 inspections within the 3-year period, the department may take enforcement actions such as issuing a Notice of Intent to degrade or assess a civil penalty or suspend a license.

These new procedures will help the department target inspection and enforcement efforts on problem areas. As a result, this should help raise overall farm and plant compliance scores on Interstate Milk Shipper (IMS) State Surveys and Food and Drug Administration Check Ratings and prevent economic losses and hardship due to IMS delisting of BTUs or plants. Any questions about the new inspection and enforcement procedures should be directed to Claudia Coles, Assistant Compliance Program Manager, (360) 902-1905.

**DAIRY NEWS** -- This newsletter is published by the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Program to foster a better understanding and harmony between the Department and its dairy farmer constituents by informing them of current issues and policy and, to solicit their input and constructive criticisms. For more information contact Mike Donovan, Food Safety Program Manager, at (360) 902-1883 or at PO Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560. Inquiries regarding availability of this publication in alternative formats should be directed to the WSDA Food Safety Program at (360) 902-1875 or TDD at (360) 902-1996.